

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 1-hour Ozone in Lafayette Parish

Lafayette Parish, Louisiana was designated under section 107 of the 1977 CAA as nonattainment with respect to ozone NAAQS on September 11, 1978. (40 CFR 81.319) In accordance with section 110 of the 1977 CAA, the state of Louisiana submitted the ozone SIP as required by part D on December 10, 1979. EPA fully approved this ozone SIP on October 29, 1981 (46 FR 53412).

On November 15, 1990, the CAA Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) were enacted (Public Law 101-549, 104 Stat. 2399, codified at 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q). The ozone nonattainment designation for Lafayette Parish continued by operation of law according to section 107(d)(1)(C)(i) of the CAA, as amended in 1990 (See 56 FR 56694, November 6, 1991). Since the State had not yet collected in Lafayette Parish the required three (3) years of ambient air quality data necessary to petition for redesignation to attainment, the area was designated as unclassifiable-transitional data for ozone.

In order to demonstrate attainment with the 1-hour ozone NAAQS, the state collected the required ambient monitoring data in Lafayette Parish that showed no violations of the 0.12 ppm 1-hour ozone standard; developed an ozone maintenance plan for the parish in accordance with section 175A of the CAAA; and on May 25, 1993, submitted to EPA for approval a request for redesignation to attainment and the ozone maintenance plan. Although the maintenance plan and redesignation request were deemed complete by EPA, several approvability issues existed. The state addressed the issues and submitted a revised maintenance plan and redesignation request to EPA on October 14, 1994.

EPA redesignated Lafayette Parish as attainment with the 1-hour ozone NAAQS on August 18, 1995 (60 FR 43020) and approved the ozone maintenance plan as meeting the requirements set forth in the CAAA. On October 17, 1995, the effective date of EPA's approval, the ozone maintenance plan for Lafayette Parish became part of the federally enforceable SIP for Louisiana.

1.1.2 8-hour Ozone in Lafayette Parish

On April 15, 2004, the EPA designated and classified areas for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS (69 FR 23858, April 30, 2004). Lafayette Parish was designated attainment with an effective date of June 15, 2004.

1.2 Geographic Location/Parish Description

Lafayette Parish is located in south central Louisiana. It is surrounded by St. Landry Parish to the north, St. Martin Parish to the east, Iberia Parish to the southeast, Vermilion Parish to the southwest and Acadia Parish to the west. The parish has a total area of 270 square miles, making it one of the smallest parishes in the state.

The parish seat is the city of Lafayette which also serves as the commercial trade center for the region. Agriculture is predominant in the area with hundreds of acres planted in rice, soybean, sugarcane and vegetables. There are also large beef and dairy operations in the area. The Acadian Region is known too for its oil and gas industry. Lafayette Parish has a population of approximately 197,390.

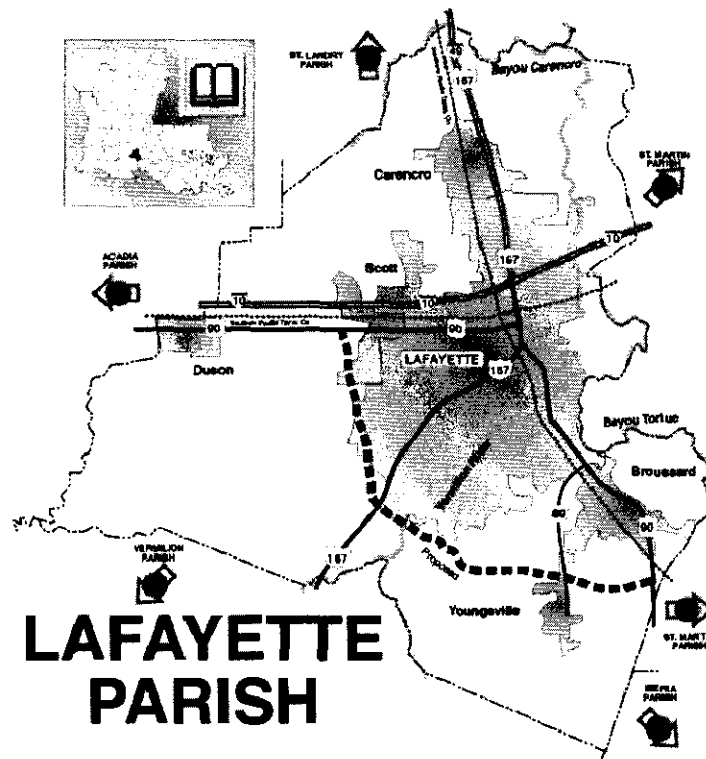


Figure 1: State Map Illustrating Lafayette Parish

1.3 Public Notice

In accordance with La. R.S. 49:950 et seq., and to comply with 40 CFR 51.285 Public Notification, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality published a notice seeking comment on this SIP revision on July 20, 2006, in the *Louisiana Register*. A public hearing concerning this proposed SIP revision was held on August 24, 2006. The comment period closed on August 31, 2006. Copies of the notices, hearing transcript, comments, comment summary and responses to comment are included in Appendix C, Public Notice and Comment Summary.